

# MISSION UNDERWAY:

## Grand Challenge On Target

### Military Hopes \$1 Million Desert Race Will Lead to First Self-Guided Robot

"The Pentagon is sponsoring a Great Race with a \$1 million cash prize but none of the drivers will collect it - because nobody will be at the wheel."

-Associated Press

### No Drivers Wanted in Race for \$1 Million

"The race, called the Grand Challenge, is the brainchild of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, the \$2-billion whiz-bang shop at the Pentagon that helped create the Internet, Stealth aircraft, "smart" bombs and the pilotless Predator plane."

-Los Angeles Times

### Pentagon Grand Challenge: \$1 Million to Builder of Robotic Vehicle

"The ground rules are simple: build a mobile robot that can travel on its own over roads and deserts, through gullies and waterways. The precise course between Los Angeles and Las Vegas will only be revealed hours before the race, on March 13, 2004."

-Voice of America

### Pentagon Looks for Few Good Robotic Vehicles

"DARPA officials hope that some computer whiz kid, some science-fiction fanatic, some junkyard warrior or off-road enthusiast can come up with a way to navigate the 300-mile course in the Mojave desert that will be loaded with obstacles."

-Orange County Register



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### Grand Challenge Teams Forging Ahead

Spurred by widespread media coverage and the energy and success of the recent Grand Challenge Competitors' Conference, more than 400 entrepreneurs, scientists, researchers, enthusiasts, and trailblazers of all kinds are forming teams to take their shot at the \$1 million prize.

This autonomous robotic ground vehicle challenge, sponsored by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) of the U.S. Department of Defense, will require diverse teams of incredible individuals to build a machine capable of negotiating 300 miles of rugged terrain between Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Although the Challenge is great, the ingenuity and spirit that define America are sure to overcome.

To find your role in this historic event, visit the DARPA Grand Challenge web site at [www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge](http://www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge). Here you can find teaming opportunities within the discussion forum, review the official rules of the event, and take a look at your competition on the new team pages.

**For More Information:** [www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge](http://www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge).  
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